

Pakistan wins Davis qualifying matches

AMMAN (Petra) — Pakistan Saturday defeated Jordan 2-0 in the last day of the three-day Davis Cup qualifying matches hosted by Jordan. Pakistan which has three wins over Jordan in the previous two days will move to the third stage of the tournament. In Saturday's matches which were patronised by Her Majesty Queen Noor, Pakistan's Omar Rashid defeated Salih Bushra of Jordan 2-0. Also Pakistani player Hamid Al Haq defeated Imad Abu Hamda 2-0. The Queen presented the Pakistani team with tokens of appreciation at the end of the matches which were attended by Her Royal Highness Princess Sarwath, President of the Jordanian Tennis Federation Dr. Daoud Hanana and several officials.

Volume 16 Number 4727

AMMAN SUNDAY, JUNE 16, 1991, THU AL HIGHEH 4, 1411

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

Holidays announced

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Mudar Badran Saturday announced that June 22, 1991 will be the first day of Eid Al Adha feast in Jordan. On the occasion all ministries, government departments and public institutions will be closed as of Saturday till Tuesday night, the prime minister said in a communiqué.

Chinese premier to visit Jordan in July

AMMAN (R) — Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng will visit Jordan on July 6 to discuss how his country could help Middle East peace efforts, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said Saturday. Mr. Peng, on his two-day visit, would also discuss bilateral ties, it added.

New jobs created

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Cabinet, in a session held Saturday under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Mudar Badran, approved the ministries and government departments manning table draft system for the year 1991. According to the draft system, 2,835 jobs will be created, raising the total of the government jobs for the current year to 104,464. The minister of finance will issue soon explanations regarding the manning table system for the year 1991.

Gorbachev accepts G-7 invitation

MOSCOW (AP) — President Mikhail Gorbachev Saturday formally accepted an invitation from British Prime Minister John Major to meet with the leaders of the seven top industrialised nations after next month's Western economic summit. The invitation was delivered to Mr. Gorbachev at the Kremlin by British Ambassador Rodric Braithwaite, the official news agency TASS reported. "The president of the USSR accepted the invitation with satisfaction," TASS said. Mr. Gorbachev wants to meet the leaders of the Group of Seven (G-7) after their July 15-17 summit to outline his plans for reforming the Soviet economy with foreign assistance.

Greece begins expelling Palestinians

ATHENS (AP) — Greece expelled the first three of 26 Palestinians ordered to leave because of their alleged involvement in a bombing that killed seven people, police said Saturday. But the conservative government, apparently bowing to pressure from leftist opposition parties, said it will reexamine its decision to expel the former Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chief of mission here. Greece last week announced the expulsion of six PLO officials with diplomatic ranks and 20 other Palestinians it said were a security threat because of evidence linking them to the April 19 bombing.

Iran demanding payment for relief

BONN (AP) — Iran has presented Germany with a bill for \$4 million for services used by the German military during its effort to help Kurdish refugees, a spokesman said. A spokesman for the Defence Ministry in Bonn said the bill covered aircraft fuel, landing fees for planes and other services.

Suspects charged for Berlin Wall shootings

BERLIN (R) — Four former East German border guards have been arrested and charged with manslaughter for carrying out the former communist regime's "shoot-to-kill" policy at the Berlin Wall, justice officials said Saturday. They were charged in connection with the shooting of Curtis Geoffroy, the last person killed fleeing from East Berlin to the west in February 1989, just nine months before the wall fell.

Berlin justice department spokesman Jurgen Burghardt said the four, accused of manslaughter and attempted manslaughter, were the first to be charged under East Berlin's order that anyone trying to flee the country could be shot.

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Tehran Times: Hostages may be released soon

NICOSIA (AP) — The newspaper Tehran Times said Saturday a phased release of Western hostages held by pro-Iranian militants in Lebanon May begin in a few days.

The English-language daily said it was not clear which of the captives would come out first, but that Lebanese and Palestinian detainees held by Israel also will be freed.

Tehran Times, which is close to Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani, quoted its correspondent in Beirut as saying "sources in the Lebanese capital share the same opinion — that the hostages, whether they are in Israel or Lebanon, are going to be released in the near future."

There are 13 Westerners missing in Lebanon — six Americans, four Britons, two Germans and an Italian. Most are believed held by militants linked to Hezbollah (Party of God), which is backed by Iran.

One of the captors' key demands has been the release of 300-400 Lebanese and Palestinians held by Israel. Israel has said it would free the detainees in exchange for seven Israeli servicemen missing since its 1982 invasion of Lebanon.

Without identifying its correspondent in Beirut, the Tehran Times said his sources refused to be quoted by name for fear of jeopardising the deal.

He attributed the break-through to a recent contact between Tehran and London and a visit to Syria and Lebanon by a senior British Foreign Office official.

It said that in a telephone conference on Wednesday with Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati, British Foreign

Secretary Douglas Hurd asked that Tehran "use its spiritual influence for the release of the hostages."

Mr. Hurd's chief aide, Foreign Office Minister Douglas Hogg said in Beirut on Wednesday that on a recent visit he "was able to impress the government of Israel the importance of releasing people..."

The Tehran Times correspondent said Mr. Hogg's statement was "considered positive by many observers in Lebanon."

These observers, he added, "speculate that American and British hostages may be released in a few days' time."

Later in the story, he said it was "not important who will move first, whether Israel or certain groups in Lebanon."

"What is important is the piece of good news that all hostages, irrespective of their nationality, will be able to go to their homes in the near future."

The newspaper said that when asked if all the captives would be released at the same time, the correspondent answered that they "may be released gradually...."

The newspaper said that because the story developed Friday there was no one at the foreign ministry in Tehran to comment on the report.

This was the newspaper's second report this week predicting a hostage release. On Wednesday, it quoted its Beirut correspondent as saying: "It may be that one or two American hostages may be released" in the near future.

The Israeli government often times prisoner releases to coincide with holy Islamic feasts.

Muslims celebrate "Eid Al Adha" on June 22, marking the end of the annual pilgrimage season to the holy shrines of Mecca and Medina.

There has been no word from Israel if any release is planned for the occasion.

Before the circulation of the Tehran Times report, Israel's defense ministry accused Iran and Syria on Friday of exploiting the issue of the Western hostages in order to pressure Israel into releasing imprisoned guerrillas.

"These countries are using the hostages so as to force Israel to release the terrorists it legally holds in exchange for Western hostages kidnapped without doing anything wrong," ministry spokesman Dan Naven said in a statement.

"We express our sorrow over the fact that Iran and Syria, who control the fate of Western hostages and Israeli prisoners, are continuing to exploit in a cynical way this sensitive humanitarian issue," the statement said.

The statement also quoted Defense Minister Moshe Arens as repeating Israel's offer to swap Lebanese prisoners it holds in exchange for its servicemen and the Western hostages.

Iran has helped secure the release of hostages from captivity in Lebanon in the past few years. It has repeatedly said it was awaiting a goodwill gesture, such as the release of Arab prisoners held by Israel, to resume its efforts on behalf of the Western hostages.

Mr. Rafsanjani is believed to want an end the hostage saga in a bid to change Iran's terrorist image and improve relations with the West to lure badly needed investment and technology.



IRANIANS FOR HAJ: An Iranian cleric, in Lebanon, describing hajj protocol to a group of Iranian women pilgrims at Jidda airport in Saudi Arabia. The rituals of the annual pilgrimage to

Mecca begin next week. Iranians are taking part in the pilgrimage this year for the first time since 1987.

U.N.: Iraq cooperating in returning Kuwaiti property

UNITED NATIONS (R) — A U.N. official said Friday Iraq had

been cooperating with U.N. teams in charge of overseeing the return of looted Kuwaiti goods and an exchange would begin in two or three weeks.

Comments from Richard Foran, the U.N. official in charge of seeing the goods were returned, contrasted sharply with those of the United States and Britain, who have used Iraq's alleged non-compliance on stolen property as one reason to keep trade sanctions in place.

"The compliance may not be as swift as a number of people have wished to see — particularly the Kuwaitis because after all it is their property. But I personally would not categorise it as non-compliance at all," Mr. Foran, a Canadian, told a news conference.

Kuwait, he said, has asked for priority to be given for the return of gold bars, coins and currency, followed by museum pieces, national fidiaries and civilian aircraft.

He said agreement had been reached for the exchange of goods to begin in two or three weeks at Arar in Saudi Arabia, beginning with 3,216 gold dinars and currency followed by the museum pieces and libraries.

Mr. Foran said there was no

disagreement on the number of gold bars but a discrepancy in the 320 million Kuwaiti dinars claimed by Kuwait and the 170 million dinars Iraq said it had.

But he said Iraq has located

additional notes in vaults elsewhere in the country that were being brought to Baghdad.

"It has taken time, wars are not orderly processes and the situation in the region is far from normal," he said, adding that communications and movement of goods in Iraq were still difficult.

"There have been a lot of delays which are understandable and these have been ironed out now ... whether this could have been done sooner, I don't know," he added.

Civilian airliners, he said, posed a bigger problem. One of the 14 Kuwaiti says were stolen has been returned. Seven are in Iraq and almost all of them were damaged by allied bombs during the Gulf war.

The remaining six airbus are reported to be in Iran and Mr. Foran said he had offered his assistance to Iranian officials.

Remaining Falashas to be sent to Israel

NEW YORK (Agencies) — The

new government of Ethiopia is willing to allow the remaining Jews in the country to leave for Israel as soon as possible, according to information provided to the World Jewish Congress (WJC) on Friday by a top State Department official.

The WJC said Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Herman Cohen told the organization that the remaining Jews are free to leave once normal operations are resumed at Addis Ababa airport.

About 14,000 Ethiopian Jews were airlifted last month in "Operation Solomon" as rebel troops poured into the city and sent President Mengistu Haile Mariam into exile.

The WJC said there are about 300 Jews left in Addis Ababa and another 2,000 in the northern Gondar region. Some Jews in Gondar are making their way to Addis Ababa, the WJC said.

Mr. Cohen, who presided over the talks in London between rebels and the collapsing Mengistu government, told the WJC that there would be no need for a new airift to bring the remaining Jews to Israel.

WJC sources said it was understood that none of the \$35 million paid to the Ethiopian government by Israel for "Operation Solomon" went into the hands of Mengistu's burried supporters.

The sources indicated that the money was in a bank and available to the new government.

The black Jews call themselves members of "Beta Israel," or house of Israel. In 1973 Israel's

chief rabbis traced their roots to the Biblical tribe of Dan.

In Ethiopia they were called "Falashas" meaning strangers — a term they consider derogatory. They managed to retain their Jewish distinctiveness despite drives against their faith and missionary campaigns.

Call for Mengistu trial

Ethiopia's new rulers have called for the extradition from Zimbabwe of Col. Mengistu, it was reported Friday.

The independent Weekend Gazette also said Alois Chidoda, the Zimbabwe ambassador in Ethiopia, returned home a few days ago after his residence in Addis Ababa was attacked by demonstrators protesting Col. Mengistu's presence in Zimbabwe.

The newspaper said long-standing diplomatic ties between the two countries, both once hardline Marxist, were in jeopardy because Zimbabwe was unlikely to hand over Col. Mengistu to "elements" in the Ethiopian People's Democratic Front who were demanding his return.

No formal extradition treaty exists between Ethiopia and Zimbabwe.

The Zimbabwe Foreign Ministry refused to confirm Friday whether it received an extradition request and declined to explain the circumstances of Ambassador Chidoda's burried departure from the Ethiopian capital.

Non-essential Zimbabwe embassy staff were evacuated from Ethiopia soon after Col. Mengistu and his family arrived in Harare on May 21.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

'Major urged Bush against ceasefire'

LONDON (AP) — A new biography of Prime Minister John Major says that he tried to stop President George Bush from calling a ceasefire in the Gulf war, the Times of London reported Friday. The newspaper said political journalist Bruce Anderson wrote in the biography that it was Mr. Major, not U.S. commander Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf, who wanted the allies to continue hostilities for at least 24 hours. The aim, according to Mr. Anderson's "John Major: The Making of the Prime Minister," was to encircle Iraqi troops in southern Iraq. The book is to be published next week. The Times said sources at Mr. Major's 10 Downing Street office have confirmed Mr. Anderson's story. A Downing Street spokesman refused to confirm or deny the story. Mr. Bush ordered a ceasefire at midnight EST on Wednesday May 27 (0500 GMT Thursday). British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd was in Washington that day and met with Mr. Bush. The Times, quoting Mr. Anderson's book, said Mr. Hurd reported to Mr. Major that Mr. Bush planned to call a ceasefire, on the recommendation of the U.S. commanders, 100 hours after the outbreak of the ground war. Mr. Major then told Mr. Hurd to press for an extension of "at least 24 hours," the Times quoted Mr. Anderson as saying. "It was the British who questioned Bush's decision," wrote Mr. Anderson. "They could not understand this display of chivalry." Mr. Anderson also wrote, the Times said, that some British officials suspected the U.S. commanders saw an overwhelming public relations advantage in ending the war in exactly 100 hours.

Sudan's rebel leader wants national unity

LAGOS (R) — Sudanese rebel leader John Garang says he is committed to national unity and a peaceful end to the country's eight year civil war, Nigerian newspapers reported on Saturday. "We are committed to a peaceful and just resolution of the crisis. We are ready to go any length when there is a beacon of hope for peace," they quoted him as saying. Col. Garang was speaking before holding talks with Nigerian President Ibrahim Babangida, the new chairman of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), in Lagos Friday. Col. Garang, who met General Babangida three weeks ago in the northern Nigerian city of Minna, said both his Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) and the government of President Omar Hassan Al Bashir accepted Nigeria's mediation in the Sudanese conflict. Gen. Bashir, who seized power in 1989, met Gen. Babangida in Nigeria in December and February. Col. Garang said the SPLA, fighting against what it regards as the domination of mainly black and Christian southern Sudan by the predominantly Muslim north, was not seeking secession. "All we want is a new Sudan, built on a social justice, democracy and equal opportunities for all," he said. He said Sudan must be a secular state, operating under a system which accommodates people of different races and religions.

Tunisians probe deaths in detention

TUNIS (R) — Tunisia's independent human rights league said Saturday it was setting up a commission of inquiry into reports that Muslim fundamentalists have died and been tortured while in detention. The league said in a statement it had received numerous complaints of torture and named two detainees it said had died in suspicious circumstances: Abderraouf Laaribi and Abdelfaziz Mehwanaoui. It said it feared Mr. Laaribi's death might be linked to his conditions of detention and interrogation. Tunisian officials denied the allegations. "There has been no torture since 1987 (when President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali came to power). The dead men do not appear on interior ministry registers as people arrested," one official said. The league said it was deeply concerned at the possibility that the practice of torture was spreading. It condemned torture "whoever the detainee might be and whatever the pretext," and asked the authorities to ensure that the rights of detainees are protected, to tell their families where they are and let them bring clothes and medicine. Official sources say some 300 members of the outlawed Muslim fundamentalist Nahdha movement have been arrested over the past weeks in connection with an alleged plot to overthrow the government. The league said it hoped President Ben Ali would order "a quick, honest and public inquiry" into the complaints of torture and death in detention. It said its previous approaches to the authorities has brought about minimal results.

Turkish premier faces party challenge

ANKARA (R) — Turkish Prime Minister Yildirim Akbulut faced

a severe challenge to his leadership at a congress of the ruling Motherland Party which opened on Saturday.

Security was tight at Ankara's Ataturk Gymnasium, where 1,172 delegates gathered. No visitors were allowed into the gallery and no flowers were admitted to the premises.

The centre right party founded by President Turgut Ozal, who was shot in the hand at a Motherland congress in 1988, is choosing the man to lead it into general elections due by 1992.

Since he became president in November 1989, Mr. Ozal has effectively ruled Turkey through his influence with Mr. Akbulut, whom he handpicked as party leader and prime minister.

The government's inability to Mr. Ozal's powerful guiding hand has created growing strains within the party and drawn virulent criticism from opposition parties on

the left and right.

Mr. Ozal, theoretically above party politics, has declared his neutrality in the leadership struggle between the conservative Akbulut, liberal former Foreign Minister Mesut Yilmaz and conservative former Education Minister Hasan Celal Guzel.

A public opinion poll published by the mass-circulation newspaper Hurriyet on Friday said 54.8 per cent of Motherland supporters polled wanted Mr. Yilmaz as leader. 18.2 per cent preferred Mr. Akbulut and 5.6 per cent favoured Mr. Guzel.

The outcome of the two day congress will almost certainly result in a cabinet reshuffle even if Mr. Akbulut survives, since several of his ministers have declared support for Mr. Yilmaz.

Some Turkish newspapers said Motherland's popularity had dipped so low that the party had no chance of winning another general election whoever emerged as its leader.

"Motherland is a product of the extraordinary days that followed the 1980 coup and it is with extraordinary support that it has been able to survive up to now," wrote Ugur Mumcu, a communist in the left leaning Cumhuriyet daily.

"Now it is departing, melting and collapsing. This is Motherland's last congress."

Guner Civaggil, columnist for the mass-circulation daily Sabah, said: "Whoever wins, the real winner will be Turkey. If Akbulut wins and continues his premiership, Turkey will be rid of Motherland all the quicker."

Mr. Ozal founded Motherland in 1983 when he led it to victory in the first, restricted, elections which took place during the return to civilian rule after the 1980 military coup.

The military intervention had ended five years of political violence between left and right which cost about 5,000 lives.

Motherland, a loose knit coalition of factions, won again in 1987 elections, mainly on the strength of prosperity and growth brought about by Mr. Ozal's liberal economic reforms.

But its fortunes have faded in the last two years of persistently high inflation, now running at more than 60 per cent a year, and spiralling government budget deficits.

Mr. Ozal's continued grip on Motherland and his control of decision-making mean that any debate within the party becomes a debate about his policies and style of leadership.

His firm support for the U.S.-led coalition against Iraq during the Gulf crisis enhanced Turkey's international standing, especially in the United States.

But Mr. Ozal's critics at home have kept him under fire for what they say to unconstitutional behaviour and the opulent lifestyle and political activities of his family members.

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Mr. Ozal founded Motherland in 1983

Home News

Departing foreign companies required to have tax clearance

AMMAN (Petra) — All foreign companies are required to obtain clearance from the Income Tax Department prior to terminating their operations and leaving the country, according to a communiqué issued by Prime Minister Mudar Badran Saturday.

The communiqué, circulated to all government departments and public institutions, said that departments which have connections or undertake business with the foreign firms operating in the Kingdom should make it clear to them that they must get clearance from the Income Tax Department before they are allowed to leave the country after finishing their business. The step was necessitated in

view of the fact that numerous foreign firms that conducted business in the country had packed and left at the end of their projects without paying dues or settling payments to their own employees, the communiqué noted.

The communiqué said some of the firms had rented premises but failed to pay the rent upon the termination of their services in the Kingdom.

It was also noticed that some of these firms had been operating in the Kingdom without proper licence from the authorities which issue permits for foreigners to conduct business here in violation of the Jordanian laws particularly the Companies Law of 1989, the communiqué added.

Ministry warns against exploitation of pilgrims

MECCA (Petra) — The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Saturday made it clear that it would not tolerate any shortcomings on the part of the contractors undertaking the transportation and housing of pilgrims in Mecca and Medina and noted that pilgrims had been making some complaints about services.

The statement was made here by ministry Secretary General Ahmad Hilayel who leads the Jordanian pilgrimage mission to this year's Haj season.

Dr. Hilayel was speaking at a meeting with representatives of various Jordanian companies, senior officials from the Ministry of Awqaf and heads of the Jordanian missions to Mecca, following his tour of the pilgrims' residential areas.

Woman stabs husband to death

AMMAN (J.T.) — A 28-year-old woman from Mughalein, near Amman, was reported to have killed her 39-year-old husband as Ibrahim Sb.

The murder was said to have occurred on May 26, 1991, in Qweisne, south east of here, where the victim was found stabbed by a switch knife following a heated dispute with the assailant.

The paper reported a claim that the victim had in fact tried to stab the murderer and that Ibrahim had to stab his opponent in self-defence. He later carried him to the nearby Al Bashir Hospital for treatment, but the man was pronounced dead on arrival.

The paper said that the general prosecutor was holding an investigation into the crime. According to the report, the two had quarrelled previously on many occasions.



Health Minister Adnan Jaijouli Saturday addresses doctors attending a seminar on forensic medicine (Petra photo)

Doctors attend seminar on forensic medicine

AMMAN (Petra) — The World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Ministry of Health Saturday opened a training seminar on forensic medicine in Jordan, attended by 20 Jordanian doctors working for the ministry's hospitals and health centres.

Health Minister Adnan Jaijouli, who opened the seminar, underlined the importance of forensic medicine in the course of assisting the judicial authorities in discovering crimes and combating criminal activity.

Dr. Munir Hadidi, head of the Health Ministry's Forensic Medicine Department, said the

seminar was designed to orient the doctors on modern means of analysing cases related to crimes.

The doctors will be discussing ways of analysing and reporting cases related to crime to the judicial authorities, which can follow up cases in the quest of finding criminals. The work also covers the study of various types of injuries or wounds, resulting from firing and deaths.

The Forensic Medicine Department, established in 1987, serves as a training centre for Jordanian medical students at the universities. The department runs various clinics, laboratories and a mortuary.

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WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of photographs by Bernard Gassot at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ An exhibition of paintings and sculptures by Showqi Shoushini, Mohammed Al Jalouz and Rifaq Al Razzaz at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation (10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.)
- ★ Palestinian heritage exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Photo exhibition by Hans Richter at the Goethe Institute.
- ★ Poster exhibition at the British Council.



Jordan Valley Authority Secretary General Abdul Aziz Wishah (fourth left) and representative of a Jordanian-German consortium Host Frantz Saturday sign a contract to carry out consultancy engineering services for Kafrein Dam, in the central Jordan Valley region (Petra photo)

Work under way for dam project

AMMAN (J.T.) — A consortium of German and Jordanian firms Saturday won a contract to carry out consultancy engineering services for raising the walls of the Kafrein dam, in the central Jordan Valley region, with the purpose of boosting its storage capacity from four to seven million cubic metres.

According to the Jordan news agency, Petra, the increased amount of water is required to irrigate lands in the Hashan, Kafrein and Rama districts of the Jordan Valley region, which, it said, lack sufficient water for crops in the dry season.

The consortium, made up of a Jordanian firm and the Salzgitter Consult G.M.B.H. Company of

Germany, will carry out investigations and design activities up to the completion of the tendering phase for the construction work, which could be subject to financing by the European Investment Bank (EIB), according to the terms of the contract.

The study and design work are expected to cost JD 370,000, while the cost of the construction work will be JD 8 million, of which JD 4 million could be financed by the (EIB).

According to Petra, the project could take up to 30 months to be completed.

The agreement, signed with the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA), also covers studies on sediment

deposition, which tends to reduce the storage, and seepage through and under the dam, especially as the raising of the dam will increase the pressure on the bed and the body of the dam.

The agreement was signed by JVA Secretary General Abdul Aziz Wishah and Host Frantz, who represented the Jordanian-German consortium.

Jean Pierre-Pierard represented the European Community (EC) at the signing ceremony. Over the past three years the EC has been financing studies on the Wala and Nukheila dams.

The signing ceremony took place at the Ministry of Water and Irrigation.

Jordan, Germany discuss technical, financial ties

By Nur Sati
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A German delegation arrived in Jordan earlier this week to hold consultancy talks with Jordanian officials, including the minister of planning.

The delegation also held

talks, Saturday, with Agriculture Minister Moshabbad Alawneh. The meeting tackled promoting and enhancing certain projects carried out in Jordan as cooperation between the two countries. The delegation also discussed future joint ventures in the agricultural field, according to Petra news agency.

"The discussions are very important because we try to combine the policy of the Jordanian government with the development policy of the German government," said Mr. Liptau.

The German delegation

comprises Mr. Liptau, Matthias Meyer, chargé d'affaires at the German Embassy, Mr. von Aulock, head of Department for Jordan of the Bank for Reconstruction, Mr. Kher, head of the Near and Middle East Division of GTZ (the German Agency for Technical Cooperation) and Dr. Geintz, head of Section for Jordan at GTZ. "Our priority areas are in the field of water, agriculture and the environment," Mr. Liptau said.

In the agricultural field the

main concern is arable land.

Given the high population and the rise in birth rates as well as the returnees from the Gulf, "this adds additional political, financial and social burdens on Jordan," he said.

"The supply of foodstuffs, potable water and the protection of the environment has even become more important," he added.

Jordan, according to a member of the German delegation, is among the countries that receive the highest assistance from Germany. In 1990 Dutchmark (DM) 180 million were granted to Jordan and in 1991 some DM 150 million were given by Jordan.

"The most important thing is not so much channelling high amounts of money as it is to execute projects and to see to it that it benefits as many people as possible," Mr. Liptau affirmed.

There has been considerable

improvement in practically every sector, the German official told the Jordan Times.

"One cannot forget the difficult problems Jordan has faced, but water is one of the sectors where work is needed." Even though development has stepped up in virtually every sector, Mr. Liptau feels "more should be done."

The consultations come at a time when consequences of the

Gulf crisis on the Jordanian

economy, as well as the German-Jordanian projects, have to be evaluated and technical and financial cooperation has to find its path back to its pre-crisis level, according to a press release issued by the German Embassy.

Following Jordan's emergency situation, Germany cooperated with Jordan in the field of structural adjustment in the West Bank, with combined efforts with international partners in order to come up with jointly agreed policies between the Jordanian government and other agencies in different fields, he added.

The German delegation comprises Mr. Liptau, Matthias Meyer, chargé d'affaires at the German Embassy, Mr. von Aulock, head of Department for Jordan of the Bank for Reconstruction, Mr. Kher, head of the Near and Middle East Division of GTZ (the German Agency for Technical Cooperation) and Dr. Geintz, head of Section for Jordan at GTZ. "Our priority areas are in the field of water, agriculture and the environment," Mr. Liptau said.

In terms of technical assistance, there are two German experts in seed production. The amount so far allocated to the project is DM 9.1 million. "The results have been remarkable," Mr. Liptau observed.

"I met with the two experts. They said that their advisory services and their results concerning seed production and multiplication are according to schedule."

Mr. Liptau added that the actual project phase terminates by August 1991, but "we are discussing prospects of a post phase cooperation and we have even been supplied with a proposal to enter into a new field of activities in seed production."

Mr. Liptau said this was still at a preliminary stage and would be announced when government negotiations take place.

Another significant project is forestation, whose target is to better qualify the forestry administration in fulfilling its task.

"What can be seen in forestation should be taken seriously because not only do forests make pretty scenery, they are important for safeguarding water reservoirs and preventing soil erosion." A new financial investment has been allocated to the amount of DM 3.5 million.

In conclusion, Mr. Liptau said, "we are jointly engaged in very important sectors in the development process of the Kingdom." He said Germany's assistance was in line with the King's policies, spelled out in the charter, giving priority to areas of water, agriculture, environment and education.

Piano recital to be held at RCC

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Noor Al Hussein Foundation's National Music Conservatory and the British Council will present Antony Peebles in a piano recital at the Royal Cultural Center on Tuesday, June 18, 1991.

The programme includes pieces by Brahms, Rachmaninoff, Chopin and others.

Antony Peebles was educated at Westminster School and with an exhibition in music — at Trinity College Cambridge. Thereafter, he studied piano mainly with

Peter Katin, receiving a number of scholarships.

In 1971, Mr. Peebles won the BBC Piano Competition, and the following year he won the Debussy Competition in France.

In the United Kingdom he has been soloist with most of the leading orchestras, plays frequently on the BBC, and performs for many music clubs up and down the country.

His current tour takes him to Australia, New Zealand, Papua, New Guinea, Vanuatu, Brunei,

Oman, United Arab Emirates (UAE), Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon; it involves some 50 concerts in three months.

This is the National Music Conservatory's second concert since it resumed its activity following the war in the Gulf. Last Sunday the conservatory and the French Cultural Centre presented the Ludwig String Quartet in a concert of pieces by Mozart, Schubert and Dutilleux.

Prince Hassan, ADC head review Middle East issues

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan met at his office Saturday with Albert Mekheibar, chairman of the Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC), and his accompanying team now on a visit to Jordan.

They reviewed with the Crown Prince the general situation in the Middle East, peace initiatives to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestine problem.

Crown Prince Hassan emphasised the need for comprehensive and integrated solutions for the Middle East problems, within a framework of security, cooperation and justice, taking into con-

sideration the human element and the requirements of economic development for the people of the whole region.

The team members presented a briefing of their activities in the United States and their continued endeavour to defend Arab community's interests in the face of hostile campaigns. They said that the committee was exerting constant efforts to bolster its ties with political and social groups in the United States.

The team later met Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Abdul Latif Arabyat to discuss Middle East question.

Mr. Mekheibar told Dr. Ara-

biyat that his committee was striving to orient the American people on the facts and the situation in the Middle East region, demanding that one criterion be implemented without any discrimination.

He said that the Israeli prime minister was now trying to abort the peace process by building more settlements in the occupied Arab territories.

Mr. Mekheibar said his committee, established in 1980, groups 25,000 members and has 70 branches throughout the American states.



Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Abdul Mekheibar, head of the Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee (Petra photo)

Tawjiji impersonators nabbed

By Ahmad Kreishan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In an unprecedented case in Jordan, two teenage girls were caught impersonating their own brothers while sitting for the tawjiji examination, organised by the Ministry of Education for students who just completed their secondary school education.

The two sisters, identified only as N.S.A. and T.S.A. were found to have donned boys' outfits and sat for three examinations so far in the ongoing final examination taken by tawjiji students for the 1990-91 scholastic year.

They would have continued sitting for the remaining subjects of examination had they not been checked by policemen at the entrance of one of the examination halls, said Ministry of Education officials.

They said the same girls, fol-

lowing the same procedure, had sat for the first session of the tawjiji examination, last January, and passed with 73 per cent and 61 per cent grades respectively, without being discovered by the police or the Ministry of Education officials.

They said that the two girls in both instances had carried official documents allowing them permission to enter the examination halls.

In a third episode yet, one of the students was discovered Saturday to have climbed into a classroom where the examination questions were kept and passed the examination to a friend sitting for the same examination in another hall.

Normally students discovered cheating in general examinations are barred from taking the examination and considered as having failed. But Tawjiji students are allowed to sit for examinations in other sessions.

Seminar tackles marketing of local agricultural produce

By Serene Halasa
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A seminar on marketing Jordanian agricultural products has been held by the Ministry of Agriculture. The seminar will help the ministry prepare for the annual national agricultural conference to be held in September.

At the opening of the seminar, the third of its kind, Minister of Agriculture Mohammad Alawneh stressed the need to develop a healthy marketing policy and to bypass present difficulties. "Marketing in Jordan is faced with many problems, but we have to overcome these problems and reduce their negative repercussions," Mr. Alawneh said.

He also added that extensive studies had been conducted in this field, by Jordanian experts, as part of United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) project that supports sound agricultural marketing policies in Third World countries.

During the seminar, representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture presented a number of papers tackling current and future marketing policies and ways to market and develop animal wealth in Jordan.

Attending the seminar was Dr. Peter Mueller, an agricultural economist and advisor to the Ministry of Agriculture.

Dr. Mueller's advisory status at the ministry is part of a joint Jordanian-German agricultural and technical assistance programme.

"My job is to set up a small unit at the ministry to deal with agricultural policy analysis," Dr. Mueller told the Jordan Times. "The purpose of the unit is to advise the ministry on issues and problems of agricultural policy. It is not a



ANNOUNCEMENT

JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES Co. Ltd.

Jordan Phosphate Mines Co., Ltd announces that the closing date of tender No 10F/91 (for the design and procurement of a granulation plant) have been extended until 12 hours local time Monday, July 29,

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1975

Chairman of the Board of Directors:
MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:
MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

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Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4
Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Faximile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department.

Democracy, more democracy

THE MEETING which the prime minister held Wednesday with parents and citizens concerned about the so-called "politicisation" of education in the Kingdom is, hopefully, the beginning of a process, and not an end to a one-time, grassroot campaign warranted only by certain circumstances.

If enough attention and care is paid to it, the process that might have been started by the meeting could serve as a cornerstone to the democratic edifice that we are trying to build in this country. The "how" and "why" are more or less academic questions. Let us, however, look at the dynamic side of the issue.

Before the present minister of education could get his job back in January, his group in Parliament agreed to join Mr. Badran's cabinet as a junior partner. It was for all practical purposes a coalition — and the people took it as such. The minister knew what he wanted from the post and started taking a series of decisions that would serve him and his party's ideological aims. When his decisions alienated and angered a certain sector of the population, a group of them mobilised instantly and took it upon themselves to organise meetings and have a petition signed by over 5,000 people. They eventually took the petition along with their grievances to see the prime minister, who assured them that what they did was exactly the kind of political exercise needed to oil the wheels of democracy. Citizens should not be afraid to practise their democratic rights in protesting against any government decision they did not like, Mr. Badran is quoted as telling the group of parents. In this country everybody is safe and secure and free to express his or her honest opinion, he noted. "Now, let us look at what the controversial decisions are and see what we can do about them," his interlocutors quoted him as saying.

Not long before the Wednesday session, there was a regular meeting of the council of ministers. Muslim Brotherhood members of the council reportedly protested to Mr. Badran that they were being singled out for attack by the press in Jordan. They apparently wanted him to put an end to this "unfair" campaign by journalists. The prime minister's reply was two-pronged, according to well-informed sources. First, he asked his Islamist colleagues whether they ever wrote back to the newspapers which were attacking them but were not published. And the answer was of course a resounding no, since the law gives the right to everybody to reply to press accusations and the premier's first priority and job is to enforce the law under all circumstances. Second, he asked his colleagues whether they remembered the grilling and tough questioning — even accusations — that he himself had to endure when submitting his cabinet for approval in early parliamentary sessions and later on. "Is not this democracy?" he reportedly asked the disgruntled ministers.

Without going an inch deep into discussing the issue of education and the controversy surrounding it, a glance at the dynamic involved in its unravelling gives us hope and confidence that a new, lively process in our democratisation has been started. While there remains much to say about our educational system, for now the real issue is democracy and more democracy.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i daily commented on the outcome of talks in Washington between the Israeli and the U.S. foreign ministers and said that they resulted in nothing, with the Jewish state showing increased intransigence with regard to a peace settlement. The paper noted that though the Israeli foreign minister had claimed that the peace process was still on, there is no doubt that it is dead, thanks to the Israeli government's stand. It seems to observers that neither Washington nor Israel wishes to cause any embarrassment to the other before the world public opinion; and therefore each side continues to stall and to manoeuvre, but during all this time Israel continues to obtain billions of dollars in financial and military aid from Washington, the paper noted. It said that there is no doubt now that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's shuttle diplomacy in the past months was no more than a form of public relations between Washington on the one hand and the Arab countries on the other. Washington is now clearer than ever before not interested in establishing peace, and it is not serious in forcing the Israelis to abide by the international legitimacy, the paper added. It said that it should be noted that while the U.S. is trying to impose new conditions on Iraq because of its brief occupation of Kuwait, it is at the same time condoning Israel's occupation of Arab lands which has lasted for more than 24 years during which the Jewish state has consistently defied the UN Security Council and the will of the international community.

For its part, Sawi Al Shaab daily said that with the failure of the talks in Washington by the U.S. and Israeli foreign ministers, the ball is now clearly in the Israeli court, because it is Israel which continues to oppose the U.S. initiative and reject Security Council resolutions. Israel's position with regard to the implementation of Security Council resolutions has not changed neither has it accepted a U.S. initiative to hold a peace conference to end the Middle East issue, the paper noted. Sawi Al Shaab said that there is no doubt that the Israeli government is stalling for time, mulling the U.S. of its money and building settlements to create new realities and issuing new conditions for negotiating peace with the Arabs. In fact, and as Foreign Minister Taher al Masri has said, the Israelis have no intention of holding a peace conference or sitting at the negotiating table with the Arabs, the paper added. It said that the Soviet Union seems to have started realising this fact, because its foreign minister has lately said that the stumbling block now lies in Israel's refusal of the idea of a peace conference which can solve the issue. What is needed now is a new Soviet position and a new role on the part of Moscow, in concert with the United States, to exert pressure on Israel to accept the international legitimacy and implement U.N. resolutions.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Jordan's economic performance in 1990

JORDAN's gross domestic product (GDP) may have risen during 1990 by 1.1 per cent in current prices, but it had declined in real terms by around 7.9 per cent. This drop is a painful blow to the economy in normal circumstances especially when we take into account the increase of population by around 10 per cent of which natural growth is responsible for 3.5 per cent and the balance due to returnees from Kuwait and the Gulf and their families.

But this drop in GDP is much milder than was anticipated by some analysts under the impact of the Gulf crisis and war which rocked the Jordanian economy and hit hard on all sources of foreign exchange including Arab aid, expatriates' remittances and export markets of goods and services.

The official figures of the national accounts for the year 1990 are not ready or available yet, but the estimates made by the experts of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), who visited the country last month for annual consultations, indicate that various productive sectors of the economy reflect varying degrees of performance. The Gulf crisis did hit certain sectors such as tourism and transport, while it did not affect other sectors.

The table given below shows value added of each economic sector during 1990 in millions of Jordan dinars. The percentage of positive or negative growth is calculated in current prices, and the

real growth, after excluding change in prices using a sectorial deflator, is quite different from one sector to another and of course different from the cost of living index.

The figures suggest that agriculture, electricity and water show a substantial real growth, while manufacturing industry, government services and other services show a relative stability. The sectors of transport and communication, construction, trade, tourism, and mining and quarrying, in that order, suffered a lot.

The huge difference between gross domestic product and gross national product represents mainly interest due on foreign debt. They were taken into account even though a major part was not actually paid.

Jordan's social problems were aggravated by the fact that the standard of living before the Gulf crisis was around 35 per cent below the level of 1987 due to the economic crisis of 1988 and the application of the IMF austerity programme. In 1990 the gross domestic product was 2 per cent down while population were 10 per cent up, another decline in the per capita income and standard of living of over 16 per cent.

Economic sector	Value added	Nominal growth	Real growth
Agriculture	168.4	+17.9%	+6.1%
Mining	179.2	+11.1%	-6.9%
Manufacturing	336.3	+8.7%	-1.7%
Electricity and water	61.1	+12.3%	+8.7%
Construction	136.7	+5.8%	-10.3%
Trade and tourism	313.8	-2.8%	-16.9%
Transport and comm.	207.8	-32.4%	-35.7%
Govt. services	436.3	+4.2%	+0.1%
Other services	410.8	+4.8%	+1.5%
GDP — Cost	2250.4	+0.6%	-8.7%
GDP — Market	2567.4	+1.1%	-7.9%
GNP — Market	2257.3	-3.9%	-11.6%

The Middle East's future: time to learn a new script?

By Jezzar Giray

EVENTS in Iraqi Kurdistan highlight a pressing need to address a cognitive disorder in Western political thinking with regard to Third World policies: that Western models can be successfully exported wholesale around the world. This has been a long and difficult path in the Middle East, Africa and Asia. The urgent need to examine this attitude anew is apparent in some dangerous misapprehensions concerning the specific interests of the Kurdish people and in the terms of our concern for the peace and security of the region.

A typical example is the wishful thinking that the revolt against Saddam Hussein is the "Arab World's first mass democratic uprising." It must be faced that Iraq fulfils none of the most basic preconditions for democracy. Firstly there is no consensus. There are too many ingrained differences between the three main components of Iraq (Sunni Arab, Shi'ite Arab and Kurds) compounded by the mass of splinter groups. The 23 or, so "parties in exile" which comprise the "Iraqi opposition" are not a monolithic body and do not necessarily represent the views of the grassroots in Iraq.

Secondly, there is no tradition or even memory of democracy. What is needed is a collective and pervasive democratic psyche at grass-roots level. For example when Alexis de Tocqueville visited the new-born and democratic U.S., he was impressed by the democratic committees which emerged from below, not imposed from above; the free press which acted as an effective check on authoritarian-minded politicians; and the democratic education that conditioned and trained its citizens in the democratic process. In the case of Iraq it is less the "tyranny of the majority" than the tyranny of yet another minority that we may see emerge.

Islamic reformers will claim that there is a well established tradition of democracy in Islam as embodied in the notion of *shura* (consultation), and will frequently cite hadith or "traditions" of the Prophet consulting with his peers before the battle of Badr. However this is so remote as to constitute a political anachronism.

The existence of a reasonably sophisticated infrastructure and a functioning communications system is also an important precondition for democracy. However 30 years of revolt against Baghdad in Kurdish areas and the toll of first the Iranian and then the Gulf and civil wars have left Iraq devastated.

Finally a moderately equitable distribution of resources is crucial for a state to sustain a democratic system. "Democracy" is clearly meaningless if part of the population is below the poverty level and another part controls all the means of production. Moreover since the majority of the Kurdish and indeed Iraqi population are very poor, notions of "democracy" are at best academic. It is therefore premature, not to say dangerous, to imagine that democracy is the panacea for Kurdish and Iraqi ills.

The identity of the secular nation-state of "Iraq" in the way in which it was constituted along cankered Western models under the Ba'ath, may carry as much emotive weight among ordinary "Iraqis" as say a football club does among its local supporters. Many will pledge a superficial loyalty to it, but are unlikely to want to die for it. New-fangled myths like the Iraqi state are much less likely to garner mass support than more time-honoured, traditional categories like Islam.

This is well evidenced by Saddam's use of Islamic terminology in shameless reversal of secular claims when it came to the crunch. Saddam is a cunning political opportunist of the first order, who well appreciates (as others have before him) the political militarism of Islamic ter-

minology. In the absence of alternative structures with sufficient political legitimacy to mobilise the masses of Iraq, recognise the compelling and historic power of these traditional networks of loyalty.

The liberals have been less zealous and patronising and more insidious than their imperialist grandfathers, in their doctrinal brow-beating of their Third World neighbours.

More insidious since their motives are guilt for the past and a genuine belief in the superior benefits of their democratic catechism.

The West should overcome its stridently evangelical mission to erect mutated clones of its own political models everywhere, particularly where the democratic soil and socio-political climate are not appropriate.

The model of the Ottoman Empire

In its search for a new and legitimate identity the new Iraq may find a rootedness in its recent history: the Ottoman Empire is a model that is not exclusive to the inheritance of any specific community (not even Turk) but part of the pool of shared experiences.

I do not mean to suggest that the Ottoman Empire (which died after a long and protracted illness as the "Sick Man of Europe") should be resurrected, but that the Western hegemony on political thinking should be challenged in favour of Ottoman models.

There are many valuable lessons here, both institutionally in its federated structure and devolution of considerable power in such key areas as education, indigenous administration and financial management; and attitudinally, in the traditional tolerance of its multitudinous ethnic and religious communities.

Since it cannot be gainsaid that Islam remains the chief source of political legitimacy, and since grafts of Western structures have proved so signal a failure, perhaps it is time for elites in the Middle East to take the initiative away from the fundamentalist Jacobs and Sans-Culottes. The overriding potency of Islam is a strong consideration for moderate reformers to elevate it to the level of principle on their own terms.

The manipulative potential of ideology must be firmly fixed in the minds of such moderates as it evidently was for Macchiavellian charlatans like Saddam. Clearly, "Islam," like "Socialism" for example, is what you make of it.

Such a development would seem to predicate yet again on the West's willingness to adjust its perceptions. In particular it requires a willingness and ability to demythologise, and indeed to "demundesify" Islam. It was this unfortunate perception of Iran, after all, which is responsible for the Western build-up of Saddam until their recent quarrel with him.

The highly heterogeneous Ottoman Empire, with its semi-autonomous regions and *millet* system, provided a reasonable inter-communal harmony in its vast territories for many hundreds of years. That is, until Western nations wiped away this time-honoured and "divinely sanctioned" inheritance in favour of their own alien ideas. As Iraq attempts to rise out of its ashes, the Western and Eastern protagonists of this drama should throw away the old script and prepare to learn new lines.

Jezzar Giray is a free-lance writer living in London. The article is reprinted from Middle East International.

Shadow of a martyr stalks the Saudis

By Helga Graham

ONLY two months after the Gulf war against Iraq, Saudi Arabia is facing religious unrest that may prove harder to control than oil-fires.

The challenge to its regime is growing within its own most partisan element — as the start of the volatile pilgrimage period for Muslims looms on June 20.

Amid news of Wahhabite preachers suspended by King Fahd's half-brother and demonstrators on their behalf in the Al Qasim region of the Nejd, near Riyadh — the Saudi equivalent of the Home Counties — a Saudi source said: "There is no means of judging its strength, but there is a built-in explosive charge in the increased power of the religious movement, particularly as it has spread to the army."

Twelve years on, the shadow of Juhainan — the extraordinary young man beheaded following his armed takeover of Mecca's Grand Mosque with several hundred *Ikhwan* or Muslim Brothers — casts a shadow over the regime.

The importance of Juhainan is that he came from the religious-tribal heartland of the Nejd that has traditionally supported the Al Saud family. Within his apocalyptic theo-logy and anti-modernism lay a revolt in the name of Islamic purity against the corrupt lifestyle, bad financial management and autocracy of the royal family.

Juhainan also rejected the Wahhabite religious authorities, the *ulemas*, accusing them of selling out to the Al Sauds. Interrogated about his arms cache, Juhainan replied: "You think it's difficult? The king smuggles his whisky and drugs, I did the same."

The regime disregarded the warning to reform. The reactionary religious movement increased its power and religious police now take people from their homes by force.

Over the past two years there has been a big increase in the fire-and-brimstone religious tapes against the royal family circulating in Saudi. During the war, sermons were preached against the infidel West, but also against domestic abuses.

One overt sign of the seriousness of the situation is the memorandum delivered to King Fahd on May 18 by a group of Saudi religious leaders, demanding a full-blooded theocracy with representative institutions that would curb the power of the Al Sauds.

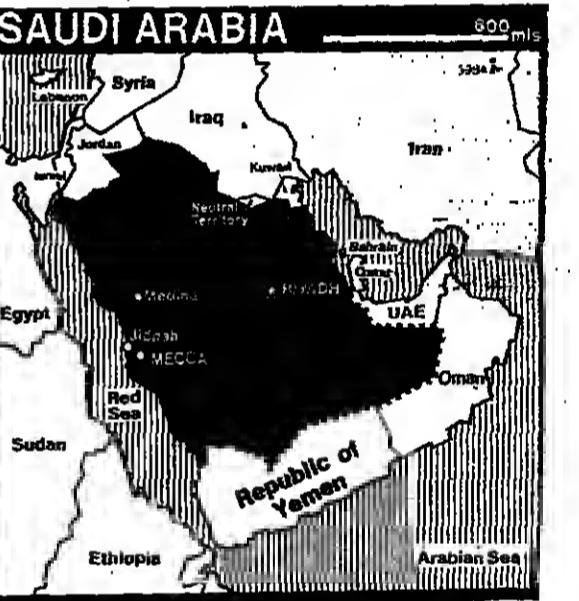
One theory current in Saudi inner circles is that the *ulemas* may be intended to lead to the replacement of King Fahd by his heir, Prince Abdullah, head of the National Guard.

With its oil wealth drastically pruned, Saudi is again being reclaimed by its own history, as the desert claims deforested land. In the past decade, close to \$160 billion reserves have been squandered, leaving Saudi with only around \$40 billion in International Monetary Fund and U.S. Treasury bonds.

Although largely excluded from power, 65 per cent of the population are *Hejazi* — people of the western seaboard who were conquered by King Abdul Aziz's bedouin troops in the 1920s. Shi'ites are an underprivileged minority of 15 per cent, have had their revolts in sympathy with Iraqi Shi'ites brutally repressed. The ruling *Nejdi* Wahhabites, who control the armed forces, are also a minority of around 15 per cent. Among them, the *Ikhwan* are a tiny fraction.

Traditionally, the Al Saud family has shared power with the Wahhabite *ulemas* on a 75:25 basis, with puritan zeal threatening the balance when the regime

By Dr. Fahd Al Fawaz



LETTERS

Glory for the Super Superpower

IT WAS "the power and the glory" that once made America feel great. But in the land of superlatives "great" was not good enough, it had to be super. So the United States became a superpower. By reaching out for the second super to become a super-superpower they violated the basic rule of history that says: every power has to have its limitations. As it seems, in Vietnam history decided to stick to its rules and to play by its rules no matter how dirty the U.S. would play. It was then that the American dream changed into the American nightmare. Although the power was still there, the glory got lost somehow in the jungles of Vietnam and was never recovered (maybe it even deserted). Many attempts were made to get it back: Grenada, Lebanon, Panama — but the glory remained missing in action. It was a disaster, a national tragedy, a trauma — *depressing*.

Finally, when the second superpower started to lose her super status there was the unique chance to "kick the Vietnam thing," to go and get the missing-link of American identity back (no linkage — just get the link back).

There had always been rumours that America's glory was out there in Arabia Deserta. Not the time had come to check that out. America's finest were brought into Desert Storm to recover the long lost glory. And the rumours were right, it was indeed out there, hiding in the quicksands between Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, waiting to be picked up by some heroes. But the "boys" didn't like the Arabian Desert where the days are filled with sun, and sand, and scorpions, and silence, and the nights with frightening echoes of bloody battles fought long ago. So they decided to look somewhere else for that glory — apparently in Bagdad's sewage system. What could they possibly find there, one might ask. Well, it seems they found something that could pass

Senna escapes unhurt after overturning car

MEXICO CITY (R) — World champion Ayrton Senna escaped unhurt Friday after overturning his McLaren in a high-speed accident during the final minutes of opening qualifying for Sunday's Mexican Grand Prix.

The 31-year-old Brazilian was attempting to exit the infamous 180-degree Peralta curve, which leads to the start-finish straight at about 250 kph when he lost control of his car and it slid across the track.

The car spun off into the tyre barriers and then turned upside down in a cloud of dust and debris before Senna eventually crawled out of the wreckage and walked away to safety.

Looking extraordinarily unfustered after what was the biggest accident of his Formula One career, Senna said: "It was a big shunt. Once the car hit the tyre barrier backwards, it got flipped upside down and ended up in the sand."

"Up to that point, the car was going quite well. We just have to do some fine-tuning in preparation for tomorrow."

Remarkably, Senna appeared to suffer no new injuries to add to the estimated 20 stitches he

needed to close a head wound suffered in a jet ski accident at his Sao Paolo beach home last Sunday.

His car, however, is likely to require extensive repairs. One front wheel was torn off and there was severe damage to both the front and rear wheels and much of the chassis.

Senna had been attempting to make a typical last-ditch effort to recover provisional pole position when he crashed at the same point where Belgian Bertrand Gachot had gone off in his Jordan only 20 minutes earlier.

Gachot had crashed heavily, spinning backwards into the barrier, but like Senna, escaped unharmed. The accident caused the session to be red flagged and stopped for 18 minutes before it resumed and Senna crashed.

At the end of the day, Senna had to be satisfied with only the third-quickest time, as Italian Riccardo Patrese, continuing where he left off in Montreal two weeks ago, took the overnight pole with an outright lap record of one minute 16.696 seconds.

He was less than three tenths of a second quicker than his Williams team mate, Briton Nigel



Ayrton Senna

Mansell, who clocked 1:16.978 to join Patrese on the provisional front row.

Senna's quickest time of 1:17.264 set midway through the session was good enough for him to secure third position, ahead of Frenchman Jean Alesi in a Ferrari.

Austrian Gerhard Berger was fifth fastest in the second McLaren and Brazilian Nelson Piquet was sixth quickest in a

Benneton.

Frenchman Alan Prost, in the second Ferrari, had to settle for the seventh best time after a day undermined by engine and gearbox problems.

Patrese, who had to ignore the effects of a nasty bout of stomach cramps and sickness, said he felt doubtful about his fitness for the race despite being delighted with his qualifying form.

He said: "It is the same as Montreal. I can do a lap, but at the moment I don't know about the race."

"I was feeling fine when I left the hotel, but then in practice, everything turned into a nightmare... I shall have to wait and see how I feel tomorrow."

Mansell, who was also feeling unwell, said: "It was a repeat of Montreal for me too with my race car breaking down in the pits, so I had to take the spare. I am pleased I have managed to be second and quite happy with that."

Several drivers complained about the bumpy and slippery surface of the track, which has always been considered dangerous, particularly at Peralta where Senna went off.

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Navratilova hungry for the 10th Wimbledon singles title

BIRMINGHAM, England (R) — Martina Navratilova made it clear Wednesday that she is more determined than ever to capture her 10th singles title at Wimbledon starting later this month. "There are a couple of hungry players and I am one of them," said Navratilova after a 6-2 6-3 demolition of Indonesia's Yayuk Basuki at the dow classic grass court tournament. "There are a few of us who ought to win and I guess experience ought to count for something. "I am excited about still being in the hunt. Last year I didn't know if I could play because I had trouble with my knees but I had them fixed and I feel 10 years younger." But the 34-year-old American insisted she would not still be playing at 40.

Red Star's Binic gets six-month ban

ZAGREB, Yugoslavia (R) — Red Star Belgrade winger Dragisa Binic was suspended for six months Friday for punching the referee in a league match last week. Binic, one of the penalty scorers when Red Star beat Marseille in the European Cup Final May 29, was among several players involved in a dispute with the referee during a match against Hajduk Split. He floored the referee with a powerful uppercut and was later shown the red card. Binic had been tipped to continue his career abroad next season, but under Yugoslav rules a player cannot negotiate with a foreign club when under suspension. "Binic did a very serious thing and was lucky the suspension was not bigger," said Marko Ilestic, president of the Yugoslav soccer federation. "He has no right to appeal."

Edberg beats Cash to reach semifinals

LONDON (R) — World number one Stefan Edberg stopped Pat Cash's Wimbledon warm-up in its tracks when he beat the Australian in the quarterfinals of the Queen's Club Grass Court Tournament Friday. The clash of the present and past Wimbledon champions ended with a 6-3 6-4 victory for the Swede. The two men, who both have London homes, have been playing superbly on the familiar Queen's Club grass this week despite blustery conditions and frequent showers. But the 25-year-old Edberg, who begins the defence of his Wimbledon crown in 10 days' time, proved to have the stronger nerves. Edberg, who had beaten 1987 Wimbledon winner Cash twice already this year — in the Australian Open and indoor in Brussels — broke his opponent in the fifth and ninth games of the first set with some superb returns. In a separate development both Lendl and Sampras were beaten at Queen's yesterday.

Borg says he will be ready in a short time

HAMBURG (AP) — Five-time Wimbledon champion Bjorn Borg believes that his game will soon improve so much that he will be able to beat Boris Becker and other top tennis players, according to an interview published Friday. In an advance release of the interview to appear in next week's issue of the magazine *Der Spiegel*, Borg said he plans to play in 10-15 tournaments a year. Borg, 35, who is attempting a comeback after an eight-year retirement, said his game will soon become "as good as it was a decade ago, and then I could also beat Boris Becker." But, Borg said, his aim was "to play for myself and not for the rankings." Becker is the no. 2 in the world. Borg's comeback suffered a setback when he was beaten soundly in the first round of the Monte Carlo Open in April by unheralded Spaniard Jordi Arrese. Since then, he has been working with former Italian stars Adriano Panatta and Paolo Bertolucci. He has also dropped his outdated wooden racket in favour of a more conventional composite one.

Zaragoza regains WBC super-bantamweight title

TOKYO (R) — Mexico's Daniel Zaragoza regained his World Boxing Council (WBC) super-bantamweight title at the age of 33 Friday with a split-decision victory over champion Kyoshi Hatanaka of Japan. The 12-round bout, in Hatanaka's hometown of Nagoya, started off well for the 24-year-old champion whose double-fisted blows kept Zaragoza on the ropes. But the Mexican, possessor of a useful right hook, opened up a cut above the champion's left eye in the fourth round when the two men began to trade punches on more equal terms. Zaragoza carried on the offensive over the next eight rounds, finally earning sufficient points for victory. There were no knockdowns. Zaragoza captured the vacant WBC super-bantamweight crown in February 1988 but lost it to American Paul Banke in April last year. His win Friday robbed Japan of its only world boxing title.

Rosario wins WBA junior welterweight title

SACRAMENTO, California (R) — Edwin Rosario of Puerto Rico won the World Boxing Association (WBA) junior welterweight title from defending champion Loreto Garza of the United States when the referee stopped the fight in the third round of their scheduled 12-round bout Friday night. Rosario, who previously held three different lightweight titles, improved his record to 37-4 with 32 knockouts. Garza, in his second title defence, dropped to 28-1-2.



Martina Navratilova

Navratilova lawsuit will not interfere with Wimbledon

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — Martina Navratilova won't have to appear in Fort Worth for a deposition during Wimbledon, after all.

On Friday, attorneys for Navratilova were granted a continuance for a deposition requested by the tennis star's former companion.

Judy Nelson contends in a lawsuit against Navratilova that the tennis player has not lived up to terms of a 1986 agreement providing that if they split up, they would divide assets accrued since they began living together in July 1984.

Navratilova's attorneys were ordered by senior visiting Judge Harry Hopkins to produce the deposition between July 16 and Aug. 2, said court coordinator Anita Hackett.

Navratilova sent Nelson a letter in April dissolving their relationship.

Nelson's attorneys had asked that Navratilova appear in Fort Worth July 2 for the deposition.

Navratilova, however, will be competing June 24-July 7 at Wimbledon and wanted the hearing delayed until after the tournament.

Navratilova's attorneys were ordered by senior visiting Judge Harry Hopkins to produce the deposition between July 16 and Aug. 2, said court coordinator Anita Hackett.

Burrell walks out of Carl Lewis' shadow

NEW YORK (AP) — Leroy Burrell walked off with a world record — and out of the shadow of Carl Lewis.

Not that Lewis was a flop Friday at the U.S. Track and Field Championships. While Burrell was bursting out of the blocks to a 9.90 time in the 100-metre dash, Lewis just missed catching his teammate and friend. It was Lewis' fastest time since the 1988 Olympics, when his 9.92 was declared victorious and the world record after Ben Johnson was disqualified for steroid use.

Burrell and Lewis. They might be linked together in headlines and record books for a long time.

"I couldn't have done it without the help of Carl and my teammates at the Santa Monica Track Club," Burrell said as he unzipped the tuxedo shirt of his fashionable warmup that caught the eyes of most spectators well before Burrell blazed to the world mark. "Everybody helps me and supports me and we lift each other up. We can't help but stand above the crowd."

Santa Monica had five of the eight 100 finalists.

Burrell was not surprised by his performance. He was a little stunned at how quickly he got it going, though.

"Everything went well from the start, obviously," said Burrell, 24. "I reacted to the gun very well, drove out of the blocks powerfully and accelerated unlike ever before."

Neither Burrell nor Lewis felt he was in top shape for this meet. That bodies well for the rest of the year.

"It's funny, I run fast in shape and out of shape," said Burrell, who later qualified for the 200 semifinals. "You never know and it just came together today. But I know there are areas I can improve in and it's just a matter of putting it all on the track."

Added Lewis, who will try to extend a 10-year, 64-meet winning streak in the long jump Saturday, "this is just the beginning of a great summer. I think all of us will be faster by August."

If Lewis had gotten a faster start, he might have lowered the world standard himself.

"I didn't run well out of the blocks, but the bottom line is when you get to the line at this kind of championships, the best man will do it. That was Leroy today."

Another "Olympic" champion named Lewis, Steve Lewis, pulled up when the hamstring tightened in his left leg in a 400-metre heat.

Greg Foster, the two-time defending world champion, won the 110 hurdles. Jack Pierce, who got a flyer at the start, was second, followed by Renaldo Nehemiah, Foster's longtime rival and former world record holder.

Gail Devers-Roberts, who only two months ago began recovering from Graves disease, a potentially fatal thyroid condition, took the women's 100 hurdles. Devers-Roberts barely could think well earlier this year after side effects from radiation treatments burned her feet.

"I've got a lot to be thankful for," she said. "If you think you've got it rough, believe in yourself and keep on keeping on and you will succeed."

Also succeeding in making the world team were Dawn Bowles and Anita Epps-Myrick.

The women's 100 was won by NCAA champ Carlette Guidry of Texas. Joining her in Tokyo will be Gwen Torrence and Evelyn Ashford, the three-time Olympic gold medallist.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY JUNE 16, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation
GENERAL TENDENCIES: You find there are a number of delays or disappointments in the early part of the day that require a considerable amount of patience on your part. Show that you follow rules scrupulously.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You can have so many wonderful ideas now that you should wisely make notations of them so you will not lose the valuable they could bring you.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You can benefit greatly in the future by the ability today to see the ways and means by which you can add to your income and revenue you have.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You have every kind of chance now to really show what hangs on in work matters so those who you want to be associated with decide now if they want your alliance.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Take some time out to really show what hangs on in work matters so those who you want to be associated with decide now if they want your alliance.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) There are some pretty interesting pleasures now awaiting you so after assignments be of congenial companions to whom gives you a kick.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) If you have anything that is not working as you wish at home, make a point to sit down and discuss harmoniously with family members and solve intelligently.

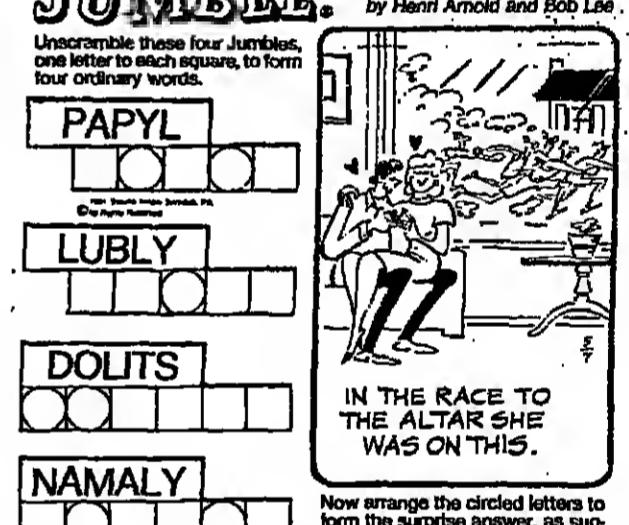
THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



JUMBLE

THAT SCRABBLE WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee



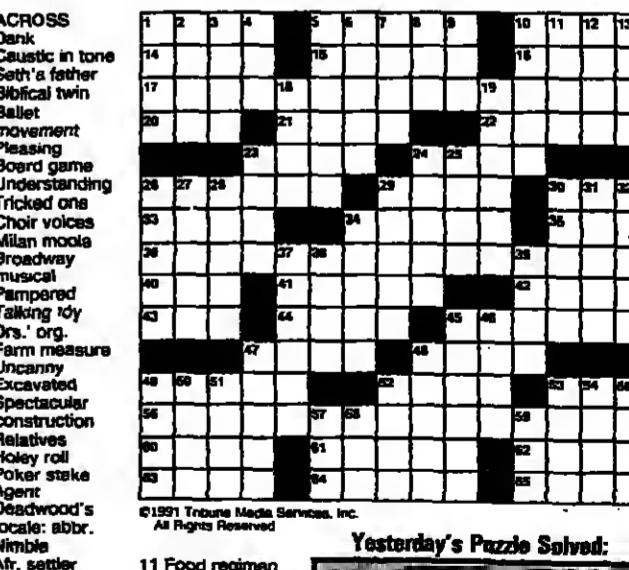
Print answer here: THE

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: MERGE SANDY POPULAR ALPACA
Answer: That nutty crook brought a banana to the court room so that he could do this — "AP-PEAL" HIS CASE

THE Daily Crossword

by Bruce W. Thompson



Economy

Financial Markets		Jordan Times			
In co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank					
U.S. Dollar in International Markets					
Date: 14/6/1991					
Currency	1 USD	1 Euro	New York		
Sterling Pound	1.6465	1.6465	1.6465		
Deutsche Mark	1.7090	1.7090	1.7090		
Swiss Franc	1.1140	1.1140	1.1140		
French Franc	6.1070	6.1070	6.1070		
Japanese Yen	151.71	151.71	151.71		
European Currency Unit	1.1448	1.1448	1.1448		
1 USD Per SDR					
European SDR = 1.000 SDR, 1.511					
Eurocurrency Interest Rates					
Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS		
U.S. Dollar	1.27	1.30	1.31		
Sterling Pound	1.11	1.12	1.12		
Deutsche Mark	1.19	1.21	1.21		
Swiss Franc	1.07	1.07	1.08		
French Franc	1.12	1.13	1.12		
Japanese Yen	1.00	1.01	1.01		
European Currency Unit	1.21	1.23	1.23		
Interest bid rates for amounts exceeding 1,000,000 US Dollars Equivalent or equivalent					
Precious Metals					
Metal	USD/Oz	JD/1m	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/1m
Gold	100.90	7.95	Silver	2.45	1.10
24 Karat					
Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin					
Currency	Date: 15/6/1991				
U.S. Dollar	.686	.686			
Sterling Pound	1.1187	1.1233			
Deutsche Mark	.3817	.3836			
Swiss Franc	.4459	.4471			
French Franc	.1123	.1129			
Japanese Yen	.8870	.8894			
Dutch Guilder	.3387	.3404			
Swedish Krona	.1060	.1065			
Italian Lira*	.0512	.0515			
Belgian Franc	.01856	.01865			
* Per 100					
Other Currencies					
Currency	Bid	Offer			
Bahrain Dinar	1.7900	1.8200			
Lebanese Lira*	.0745	.0765			
Saudi Riyal	.1820	.1830			
Kuwaiti Dinar	-	-			
Qatari Riyal	.1850	.1860			
Egyptian Pound	.1950	.2150			
Omani Riyal	1.7500	1.7700			
UAE Dirham	.1850	.1860			
Greek Drachma*	.3410	.3600			
Cypriot Pound	1.3870	1.4160			
Per 100					
CAIS Indices for Amman Financial Market					
Index	5/6/1991 Close	12/6/1991 Close			
All-Share	112.16	111.64			
Banking Sector	108.95	107.34			
Insurance Sector	112.92	114.25			
Industry Sector	114.91	115.52			
Services Sector	128.24	130.73			
December 31, 1990 = 100					

Canadian jobless rate rises to 10.3 per cent

OTTAWA (R) — Canada's unemployment rate rose to 10.3 per cent in May from 10.2 per cent in April, the government has said. The number of jobless Canadians increased by 15,000 to 1.41 million last month, Statistics Canada, the government reporting agency, said.

The number of people with jobs also rose as the workforce grew. Employment rose for a second consecutive month by 34,000 to 12.36 million.

"We are striking a wait-and-see attitude, but the recession seems to have bottomed out," said Mr. Doug Drew, an analyst with Statistics Canada.

Poehl sees brighter world economic outlook

OSLO (R) — Outgoing German central bank (Bundesbank) President Karl Otto Poehl said Friday the outlook for the world economy was brightening.

"On the global economic situation, we have all reason to be a little more optimistic than we had reason to be, let's say, a year ago," he told a seminar in Oslo marking the 175th anniversary of the Norwegian central bank.

"Recessionary tendencies are still existing in some countries but it seems that the outlook for the U.S. in particular has brightened in the recent past, at least this is the conviction in the exchange markets," he said.

The dollar has climbed against most currencies in recent months due to a belief that the U.S. recession has bottomed out.

"Some countries are still in a rather sluggish economic situation, others are expanding — Japan and in particular Germany," said Mr. Poehl, who is due to leave the Bundesbank in July after 11 years as its president.

"Germany has acted as a kind

of locomotive for the world economy and particularly for the European economy since unification," he added.

Despite the huge political problems of unifying former West Germany with the formerly communist east, the western German economy was now expanding at an annual rate of around four or five per cent.

This meant big benefits to neighbouring nations — German imports from other European Community countries had jumped about 20 per cent in the past year, he added.

But he said German interest rates would have to stay high.

"Real interest rates in Germany are still very high and have to remain pretty high in the future," he said. "So there is no room for easing of monetary policy in Germany as some expected us to do."

The plan from the consultative group would be to have a steady

per cent gain in the previous month.

But retail inflation over the past five months has shown restraint, with the CPI rising at only a 2.7 per cent annual rate, well below its 6.1 per cent pace in 1990.

After subtracting the volatile food and energy components, the closely watched core rate of retail inflation rose by 0.2 per cent, the same as in April, the department said.

The Federal Reserve Board, which oversees the U.S. central banks, said output at the nation's mines, utilities and factories rose 0.5 per cent last month, with factories operating at a slightly higher percentage of capacity.

In a separate report, the Commerce Department said business inventories fell in April while business sales gained — signs that individuals and businesses started to spend and that factories will have to boost production quickly to refill stocks.

It said inventories fell 0.5 per cent in April after a revised 1.0 per cent drop in March, while business sales gained 1.2 per cent in April after a revised 0.9 per cent in March.

In the consumer price index (CPI) report, the Labour Department said a jump in the cost of petrol helped push retail prices up 0.3 per cent in May after a 0.2

per cent in March.

However, Mr. Norman Robertson, vice-president and chief economist at Mellon Bank, cautioned that while the CPI figure was positive, it was too high for an economy emerging from recession.

The Commerce Department reported Thursday that the producer price index (PPI), which reflects prices at the wholesale level, jumped 0.6 per cent in May, sparking fears inflation was on the rise.

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"It's a very good report ... an excellent performance," said Mr. Charles Lieberman, managing director at Manufacturers Hanover Securities. "There's clearly moderation in inflation going on at the consumer level and that's good to see after yesterday's PPI report and recent market concerns that inflation would rise," he said.

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Philippine volcano bombards U.S. bases, buries villages

ANGELES, Philippines (R) — An erupting volcano in the Philippines bombarded two U.S. military bases and nearby towns with a deadly hail of rock and ash Saturday, triggering a series of earthquakes and burying villages in mud.

"It's like doomsday," said Richard Dizon who owns a hotel in Angeles, a few kilometres from the exploding Mount Pinatubo.

At least 10 people have been killed and scores injured since the volcano started erupting last Sunday, ending six centuries of inactivity, officials said.

The eruption sent huge pillars of ash towering into the sky, blotting out the sun as far away as the capital Manila, 80 kilometres to the south.

Scientists warned that the volcano, spewing red hot lava and noxious gas in succession of increasingly powerful eruptions, could explode in a devastating blast and urged residents of three major towns and surrounding areas to flee.

"We are now looking into the possibility of a bigger eruption... we are now thinking of a worst-case scenario," said Ronald Arboleda, a geologist for the Philippine Volcanology and Seismological Institute.

He said in a radio interview the institute had now expanded the danger zone from 30 to 40 kilometres, which would include

the major towns of Angeles, next to Mount Pinatubo, San Fernando and Olongapo, close to the U.S. Subic Bay naval base.

"The situation is really very dangerous," Arboleda declared.

Most of the victims died in the last 24 hours in huge mudflows triggered by heavy rains, which snapped bridges and buried villages in their homes.

Four earthquakes jolted the northern Philippines around the area of the volcano, the institute said. Buildings in Manila were rocked by what seemed to be the strongest of the four quakes.

"I think these earthquakes are connected to the eruption," said chief volcanologist Reynaldo Punongbayan.

There were no immediate reports of deaths directly related to the quakes, but two people were killed when the roofs of bus terminals in Angeles and Olongapo, weighed down by falling ash, collapsed onto scores of passengers trying to flee.

Stones, some the size of tennis balls, rained down on evacuation centres across three northern provinces where tens of thousands of refugees muddled under flimsy tents and in makeshift camps.

The United States withdrew all of nearly 1,000 troops guarding Clark Air Base, near Pinatubo, Saturday but said weapon systems stored in underground

bunkers would be safe.

"After the major eruption this afternoon, they (the soldiers) were all taken out," said U.S. embassy spokesman Stanley Schrager in Manila.

Fifteen thousand less essential U.S. personnel and their families were evacuated from Clark earlier this week.

A constant hail of pebbles clattered into the streets of Angeles, with a population of 200,000, and pelted Clark and Subic, the two largest American military bases in Asia.

"We just braved a heavy downpour of sand and stones. We thought burning rocks would fall on us," said 60-year-old Erlinda David who left her home near Clark.

"We were scared to be buried under boulders, so we left the house," one said.

A thick layer of sand and ash lay on roads between Angeles and Subic to the west and constant rains from a tropical storm sweeping the northern Philippines caused floods and landslides.

"People are fleeing in panic, some on foot, some jamming into packed buses, holding umbrellas and towels over their heads to protect them from falling debris," said a local journalist.

"It looks like the beach, where there used to be potholes, the

road has been filled in by debris and sand," said Elpidio Acebal, another evacuee.

At least 30 people were reported injured in Olongapo, many of them hit by falling stones or trees which snapped under the weight of volcanic ash.

Subic was dimming with evacuees from Clark, but there were no immediate reports of U.S. casualties.

The United States was due to start flying home the families of Clark based servicemen Sunday. Officials said Subic, built around the naval dockyard, was not suitable for a long stay.

Pinatubo has unleashed a series of almost non-stop eruptions since Friday afternoon, triggering the earth tremors.

"It was really frightening as it became bigger and bigger," said Don Sotto, working in a hotel 25 kilometres from the volcano.

"It looks like many explosions from different parts of the volcano happened at the same time," he said.

Teresita Mallari, a high school student who watched the eruption from Angeles, said: "I saw huge flashes of light glowing like lightning. I've never seen anything like it."

There was flooding in parts of Manila and around Angeles, where rivers were contaminated with ash and a major bridge collapsed.

2 more arrested in Gandhi case Uncertainty looms as Indian polls conclude

NEW DELHI (Agencies) — Indian voters, driven to apathy by interminable political crises, heat and monsoon rain, turned out in relatively small numbers on Saturday to end an election marathon.

Little fresh violence was reported to mar the country's bloodiest campaign, dimmed by the assassination of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on May 21.

The killing, still unsolved, caused postponement of 60 per cent of the voting.

If political analysts and opinion polls are correct, none of the three major contenders on the left, right and centre could expect a majority after the polls closed on Saturday evening.

The mood of the Indian electorate of 514 million turned cynical after 18 months of caste and religious violence which caused the collapse of three governments. The current campaign began in the middle of the country's worst economic crisis.

The first phase of voting for just over 200 seats was held the day before Mr. Gandhi was killed by a woman suicide bomber in the southern state of Tamil Nadu.

Just over 50 per cent of eligible voters turned out on that first day and the turnout was no higher last Wednesday, the delayed second day, dashing the hopes of Mr. Gandhi's Congress Party for a surge of sympathy voting.

Both were arrested from a bus by sleuths who trailed them in a number of vehicles, the news agency said.

They were brought to Madras under heavy police guard.

Mr. Gandhi was killed by a suicide bomber in the town of Sripuram, 40 kilometres

from the capital of Tamil Nadu, the news agency said.

Police counting is scheduled to start early on Sunday (0230 GMT), with a firm trend expected by some time on Monday.

The only sure thing was the emergency of the right-wing, Hindu chauvinist BJP as a major force in parliament, likely to become the second biggest party after Congress, which opinion polls predicted would win about 200 seats.

The polls suggested the BJP would get around 160. It scored with an emotive campaign for turning secular India into an officially Hindu nation.

Both are believed to be part of a backup squad meant to carry out the assassination in case Tham

Another suspected accomplice is a one-eyed man — also among the photographs taken on Mr. Gandhi's rally — who was posing as a journalist.

The photographs were taken by an amateur photographer, Hari Babu, who died in the explosion but the roll of film in his camera remained intact. So far, those photographs have provided all or most of the leads in the investigation.

Inquiries have continued to centre around the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, the most powerful and sophisticated Tamil group fighting for independence in Sri Lanka.

A possible motive for the Tigers' involvement in the assassination is Mr. Gandhi's role as a mediator in the Sri Lankan civil war when he was prime minister in 1987.

Mr. Gandhi ordered Indian troops to enforce a ceasefire between the Sri Lankan army and the Tigers under any Indian-brokered accord.

But the troops ended up with a

2½-year war with the Tigers when the Tigers reengaged the peace plan and resumed fighting.

The troops were recalled in March 1990 by the government of V.P. Singh, who replaced Mr. Gandhi as prime minister.

That trend appeared to have continued on Saturday, the third day.

Reports from around the country spoke of low to moderate early turnouts in the polling, staggered to allow security forces to be moved around to forestall voter intimidation.

Troops and police were cut in large numbers in the 186 constituencies at stake on Saturday for the 545-seat parliament.

Voting in one constituency in

the southern state of Andhra

continued on Saturday, the third day.

The arrests followed those of two other suspected conspirators

Wednesday — a mother and son

duo who allegedly gave shelter to Mr. Gandhi's assassin in their home in Madras.

Both S. Bhagyanathan and his

49-year-old mother, Padma, a

nurse in a Madras hospital, were

produced in court Wednesday

and are currently in police custody for questioning.

The assassin has been identi-

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